

**REMARKS**

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-8, 10-20, 22-26, 28-40, 42-45, 47-49, 51-54, 56, 131-133, 135-139, 141-152, 154-158, 160-171, 173-178, 180-181, 183-188 and 190 are in the present application. It is submitted that these claims were patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. The changes to the claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled. Claims 3, 9, 21, 27, 41, 46, 50, 55, 134, 140, 153, 159, 172, 179, 182, and 189 are canceled.

Claims 2-8, 12-16, 18, 20, 21, 26, 27, 30-33, 36, 39-43, 46, 48-50, 55 and 131-190 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to provide a sufficient antecedent basis for the terms “the tag information,” “the attribute information” and/or “the paragraph.” In response, each of the independent claims has been amended to provide sufficient antecedent basis for these terms. Accordingly, Applicant believes this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 1-7, 9-13, 17-25, 27-31, 35-57, 131-138, 140-144, 148-157, 159-163 and 167-190 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by MacKenty et al. (U.S. Patent 6,088,675). However, in the present invention the input electronic document includes “tag information indicating the inner structure of said electronic document of a hierarchical structure having a plurality of elements is added to said electronic document.” (All of the independent claims) This tag information is added automatically to all of the phrases in the electronic document. (Figure 8) By contrast, MacKenty discloses using the tag information already present in the electronic document and simply assigning sound values to the various tags. As shown by the Example provided at Columns 7-8, many of these tags are URL (website locations) which must be specifically added and cannot be automatically generated based on simple phrase and sentence structure in the document. Hence, the present invention’s tag information is distinguishable over MacKenty’s tag information. Furthermore, the present invention adds “attribute information specifying beginning positions of paragraphs, sentences and phrases making up the electronic document.” This attribute information allows the document to be read-out in natural speech patterns. MacKenty does not disclose an equivalent to this attribute information. In addition, MacKenty uses the tag information to assign distinct sounds to each tag, thereby indicating the structure of the document. The present invention is also applicable to any general document, not just XML documents as disclosed in MacKenty. Accordingly, for at least these reasons, MacKenty fails to anticipate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

Claims 8, 14-16, 26, 32-34, 139, 145-147, 158 and 164-166 were rejected under

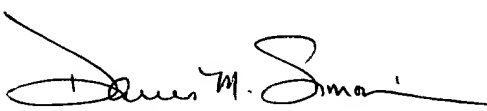
35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MacKenty in view of Miyatake et al. (U.S. Patent 5,842,167). Miyatake is relied on solely to meet limitations found in the dependent claims. (Office Action page 7) However, like MacKenty, Miyatake fails to meet the independent claim limitations discussed above. Accordingly, the combination of MacKenty and Miyatake fails to obviate the present invention and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application as now presented is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,  
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